

LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT BUILDING SAFETY RE-INTRODUCED

A federal grant program to assist communities as they adopt and administer construction safety codes that protect property and the public was re-introduced in the U.S. Congress with bipartisan support in May. The House passed a similar measure in a previous legislative session, but the measure derailed as Congress turned its attention to battling the economic crisis.

The Community Building Code Administration Grant Act authorizes \$20 million annually from 2010 to 2014 for the grant program. The grant is supported by the International Code Council, an association that develops safety codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings. Other supporters include the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the International Fire Code Council, the Alliance to Save Energy and the National Institute of Building Sciences.



Empire State Building Undergoes Retrofits for Efficiency

The Empire State Building in New York City will undergo an energy efficiency retrofit as part of a \$500 million planned upgrade to the famous office building.

The program is expected to reduce energy use by up to 38 percent and save an estimated \$4.4 million in annual energy costs. Work has already commenced, and building systems work is slated to be completed by the end of 2010. The balance of the work in tenant spaces should be concluded by end of 2013.

For additional information on the retrofit visit www.esbnyc.com.



CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD REPORT REVEALS POST-RECESSION RETAILER OPPORTUNITIES

Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., AMO®, recently released a business briefing on U.S. retail opportunities entitled, “When the Storm Passes.” The report outlines substantial opportunities for retailers studying the market, intent on gaining enhanced market share by capitalizing on landlord pressure to fill space.

According to the report, more than 130 million square feet of big box space in the United States has gone dark since the beginning of the recession due to store closings and bankruptcies. While significant retail sector challenges persist, there are early signs of stabilization in key areas. Consumer confidence in April reached its highest level in seven months. At the same time, consumer spending registered a 2.2 percent upswing. In addition, annualized spending growth improved during each month of the first quarter, with growth in March at its highest level since 1985.

However, the report said substantial improvement in consumer spending will be necessary to moderate the rise in vacancy. Cushman & Wakefield’s analysis suggests that a sustained increase in consumer demand will provide retailers with a unique opportunity to absorb vacant space in high-productivity locations.

For more information on the Cushman & Wakefield business briefing visit www.cushmanwakefield.com.

QUOTABLES

“If we could sell our experiences for what they cost us, we’d all be millionaires.”

—ABIGAIL VAN BUREN, ADVICE COLUMNIST

“You can never plan the future by the past.”

—EDMUND BURKE, IRISH STATESMAN

“I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.”

—E. B. WHITE, AMERICAN AUTHOR

“About the time we can make the ends meet, somebody moves the ends.”

—HERBERT HOOVER, AMERICAN PRESIDENT

“A sense of humor... is needed armor. Joy in one’s heart and some laughter on one’s lips is a sign that the person down deep has a pretty good grasp of life.”

—HUGH SIDNEY, AMERICAN JOURNALIST

“And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.”

—ANAIIS NIN, AMERICAN AUTHOR

“Success without honor is an unseasoned dish; it will satisfy your hunger, but it won’t taste good.”

—JOE PATERNO, COLLEGE FOOTBALL COACH



WIND TURBINE USE GROWS IN UNITED STATES

According to a recent study by the American Wind Energy Association, at least 219 companies in the world manufacture, or plan to manufacture, small wind turbines. The U.S. market for small wind turbines grew 78 percent in 2008. Wind turbines can help reduce or eliminate electrical bills for home and business owners, schools and municipalities. They can also provide electricity for remote applications such as telecommunications sites operating in isolation of existing power.

A federal incentive signed into law by President Obama in February awards U.S. taxpayers with 30 percent of the cost for installing new systems by way of a tax credit through the year 2016. Commercial entities may be able to receive this incentive in the form of a grant for the next two years.

Michigan proposal puts LEED Power in Local Hands

According to an article in the *Ann Arbor Business Review*, a Michigan state representative has introduced a bill that would allow local governmental bodies to implement U.S. Green Building Council LEED building requirements that go beyond state regulations.

Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje voiced support for the measure, stating he would advocate for implementing more stringent energy-efficiency standards, such as requiring a certain amount of insulation in new construction projects, if the bill becomes law.

STUDY: INVESTORS PAY MORE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

Large institutional investment firms are factoring the market value of energy-efficient property into their real estate investment models, according to a recent study by Responsible Property Investments (RPI).

The study examined the effects of investing in energy-efficient, transit-oriented and urban regeneration office properties in the United States over the past decade. It found that energy-efficient properties with the government's Energy Star label performed better than non-labeled properties. Energy Star properties exhibited 13.5 percent higher market values and 5.9 percent higher net incomes per square foot, a result of 10 percent lower utility costs, 4.8 percent higher rents and 1 percent higher occupancy rates. However, RPI researchers also found that Energy Star properties did not appreciate faster than non-labeled properties and did not generate better overall returns.

To read the study visit <http://tinyurl.com/q6a3hz>.

Report Finds Sustainability to be Recession Proof The shift in real estate markets toward sustainable buildings will experience only a mild disruption from the global recession, according to recent research published by RREEF, the investment management business of Deutsche Bank's Asset Management division. The report found little evidence to suggest firms are abandoning long-term commitments to sustainability, despite the recession. The view the report visit www.rreef.com.

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Buildings.com is a unique information resource that provides a community for the buildings industry, with the latest news, an articles archive, research and an extensive online Buyers' Guide for facilities professionals. The Web site is dedicated to "helping facilities professionals make smarter decisions."

<http://zipskinny.com>

This Web site provides free demographic info (e.g., education, household income, marital status) by zip code for the United States as well as for several foreign countries.

<http://shrm.org>

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) is the world's largest association devoted to human resource (HR) management. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. SHRM provides articles, publications, research analysis, discussion groups, conferences and forecasts; analyzes relevant news items and legal issues; and, for members, provides a variety of free sample forms, interview questions and toolkits related to HR matters.

<http://grants.gov>

Want to see what kind of federal grants are available? Federal agencies offer more than 1,000 grant programs and access to approximately \$400 billion in annual awards. **Grants.gov** allows organizations to search and apply for grants from 26 different agencies, as well as presenting opportunities related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

fast facts

The HEART of a blue whale is the size of a small car.

In the Middle Ages, SUGAR was a treasured luxury costing 9 times as much as milk.



It is impossible to SNEEZE and keep one's eyes open at the same time.

On every continent there is a city called ROME.

The 16th-century Escorial palace of King Phillip II of Spain had 1,200 DOORS.

The length from your WRIST to your ELBOW is the same as the length of your foot.

The Major League Baseball teams use about 850,000 BALLS per season.



The typical BOLT OF LIGHTNING heats the atmosphere to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

The first Ford cars had DODGE ENGINES.

PEPSI-COLA was invented by Caleb Bradham in 1890 as "Brad's Drink" as a digestive aid and energy booster.

